

## Meeting January 3, 2023

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Ruszkowski 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Ruszkowski asked for a moment of silence and prayers for a speedy recovery for Borough Manager Jeff Landy following his liver transplant. President Ruszkowski asked Mayor Bailey to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Cholock, Phillabaum, Barrick, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey was present. Solicitor Istik was absent. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of December 5, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

### Public Comment:

- Joseph Bauer, President of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, of N. Geary Street, Mount Pleasant, PA spoke to Council regarding:
  - thanked Council for their support during his tenure as President of the Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. His last day as President will be January 19, 2023. The new President for the Fire Department is Richard Pologruto.
  - Thanked Council for help getting the air rigs that was need for the fire department which cost approximately \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00. The Borough has also offered to pay for the battery rescue tool this year, which should be in soon, that is being purchased for Rescue Engine 4.
  - Took paperwork to Steven Remaley of Roy and Associates to help with the converting the fire department from a 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3). They were not able to help with the completion of this due to the extensive paperwork. The Fire Department cannot apply for grants because they are not a 501(c)(3).
  - Mr. Bauer stated that Borough Manager Landy was going to allot some of the Covid money to the fire department. At the time they were uncertain as to what they wanted to use it for. Borough Manager Landy found that they can buy turnout gear with the money. Mr. Bauer is going to get a list together of a few of the members that need turnout gear. Mr. Bauer believes that the amount of money that was going to be allotted to the fire department was around \$25,000.00. Mr. Bauer stated that they can buy approximately 6 or 7 sets of gear which would be a relief because some of the interior guys have old gear. Mr. Bauer will get the list to Borough Manager Landy. Council President Ruszkowski asked Mr. Bauer to get all information to Borough Secretary Sharon Lesko.
- Heidi Leeper, Director of the Mount Pleasant Library, of Acme, PA spoke to Council regarding:
  - In the past year they have had over 22,000 people through the library and circulated over 21,000 items.
  - Issued over 300 new library cards
  - Had 397 days of Wi-Fi usage that has been used at the library by 792 people.
  - Had 57 days of computer usage with the public computers.
  - Added 1400 new items to the collection. Currently the collection stands at approximately 27,000 items.
  - Handed out January 2023 calendar of events for the library to Council.

Councilwoman Stevenson thanked Ms. Leeper and stated that she has a good working relationship with the Historical Society. She has found various little treasures that were stashed away at the library and has given them to the Historical Society so everyone can enjoy them. Ms. Leeper stated that it was she and the Library Board that decided to give them to the Historical Society where they are in good hands. Councilwoman Ruszkowski stated that they will be very well taken care of and that the Borough is very fortunate to have a library in the community.

**Speakers: None.**

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Hoped everyone had a very Merry Christmas.
- Keep Borough Manager Landy in our prayers for a speedy recovery. Borough Manager Landy had a liver transplant on Thursday, December 29, 2022. Spoke with him today and he is in good spirits.
- Met with Heidi Leeper from the Library at her request. Heidi had questions concerning Borough Ordinances that govern the library. Mayor Bailey has a list that they will need to get answers to help her understand.
- Attended the Jacobs Creek Watershed Annual Dinner held at the Laurelville Retreat Center. Thanked all that work tirelessly to make our waters clean and enjoyable. Councilman Barrick is a member of their staff. Mayor Bailey thanked Councilman Barrick also.
- Met with Mark Kubasky and his fellow employees of ITG Brands. They volunteered their time for the community. They helped the street department by gathering leaves that they were unable to take care of. Mayor Bailey gave a big thank you to Mark Kubasky and his crew for thinking about the Borough and reaching out.
- Mayor Bailey and Council President Ruszkowski attended the BDA Christmas event at their office on Main Street, Diamond Mini Mall. It was a nice opportunity to meet a few of the business owners.
- Attended Medic 10 meeting.
- Reminded all residents that trash is not to be put out prior to 24 hours of pickup.

**Solicitor's Report: None.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report:

- You will see that there was a withdrawal of \$10,566.94 from the liquid fuels account. This money was deposited into the General Fund. It was for the Winter Maintenance Agreement with PennDOT and should have been deposited into the general fund. PennDOT did an ACH deposit into the liquid fuels account.
- Oceanview Annuity sent a check for \$88,500.00. This was the interest received this year for the annuity. It is deposited into General Fund.

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2022:

**Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report**

**Nov-22**

		<b>Prev Bal</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Balance 2022</b>
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	942,292.34	114,180.09	135,897.98	920,574.45
General Fund	Standard Bank				
Budgetary Reserve	321615	980,949.13	2,167.12	0.00	983,116.25
**Police	48,591.82				
**Streets	157,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	332,140.03				
**Infrastructure	206,588.62				
**Workers					
Compensation	50,000.00				
**BOMP Gas Wells	23,989.94				
** Frick Park Gas					
Well	23,968.48				
**Levins	0.00				
**Fire	3,400.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Medic 10	100,000.00				
**Marcellus Impact					
Fee Act 13	23,477.60				
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	27,331.25	426.15	572.08	27,185.32
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,413.19	4.50	0.00	4,417.69
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	132,501.62	128.94	10,566.94	122,063.62
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	2,747.55	44,506.82	44,500.30	2,754.07
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	25,328.67	2.29	0.00	25,330.96
Veterans Military Banners Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2004522337	2,138.66	0.18	113.64	2,025.20
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,224.59	1.25	0.00	1,225.84
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	444,429.73	452.95	0.00	444,882.68
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318012650	53,527.71	0.00	0.00	53,527.71
Standard Bank CD (200yr Anniversary)	Standard Bank 6677418044	54,243.17	0.00	0.00	54,243.17
<b>Total General Fund Balance</b>					<b>2,863,984.36</b>
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	131,031.03	38,163.84	6,422.79	162,772.08
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	50,935.30	51.91	0.00	50,987.21
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	6,030.77	6.15	0.00	6,036.92
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	9,485.16	0.00	0.00	9,485.16
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	19,458.71	0.00	0.00	19,458.71
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 410053	5,269.88	0.00	0.00	5,269.88
<b>Total Medic 10 Fund Balance</b>					<b>254,009.96</b>
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	892,390.31	909.50	0.00	893,299.81
Capital Reserve M. A. Checking Acct	Somerset Trust Co 2004129745	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Reserve M. A. Savings Acct	Somerset Trust Co 2004521230	458,314.90	1,035.92	0.00	459,350.82
Oceanview Annuity CD	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	3,007,516.44	0.00	0.00	3,007,516.44

Standard Bank CD					
WWT Cap.Resv	Standard Bank 464569	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank				
WWT Cap. Resv	318015215	201,508.38	0.00	0.00	201,508.38
Athene Annuity CD (created Jan. 2021)	Somerset Trust	507,249.99	0.00	0.00	507,249.99
<b>Total WWT Balance</b>					<b>5,068,925.44</b>
<b>Total Borough funds</b>					<b>8,186,919.76</b>

Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary  
Sharon Lesko

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to accept the November 2022 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

### **Tax Collector's Report:**

Council President Ruszkowski read the following report for the month of December 2022:

Property Taxes	\$6,514.88
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$ 704.00</u>
Total Collected	\$7,218.88

### **Borough Manager's Report:**

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Received a letter of resignation dated December 18, 2022 from full-time Police Officer Olivia Harshell. Resignation effective January 20, 2023.
- Sent a letter and thumb drive to James Koshinsky of DeBlasio & DeBlasio regarding the audit for the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department.

### **President's Report:**

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Spoke with Borough Manager Landy and he sounds good and is very positive after having his liver surgery.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:21pm to 8:16pm to discuss personnel issues.

### **Property Report:**

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Received a mock-up of the gazebo renovation from Shawn Ulery of Ulery Architect. Everyone on Council has received a copy of it. These plans are approximately 80% complete and a few items need to be added. Would like to meet with Mr. Ulery within the next few weeks regarding the lighting items; and, would like to be able to put it out for advertising in February.
- Borough Manager Landy received a grant to purchase four (4) sheds to be placed at the east end of town on the former Arevalo property next to Doctor McCloy building. Sheds were to be 12x20. Councilman Barrick stated that it will be difficult to fit the sheds in that space and believes that they will need to sit parallel to the building.

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report:

- Mr. Cory Miller from Miller's Copperwood Creations has completed the refurbishing of one of the desks from chambers. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if Council has thought about having the remaining desks refurbished along with keeping the history of the desks in chambers. The top shell that currently sits over the desks would be eliminated. The costs would not exceed \$300 per desk in the event some need a little more work than others. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she would like to get the room back to honor its age and history. Councilwoman Stevenson also suggested getting new chairs. For the front desk, there are no desks under the shell. Mr. Miller would build something out of oak along with something having some file drawers and stain it to get it close to matching the desks. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that Mr. Miller does have time now and would like to know if Council would like to proceed. Council President Ruszkowski asked if they do go with refurbishing the desks would they need to put something on top of them to protect them. Councilwoman Stevenson suggested putting a glass top on them. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if anyone would object to having the desks refurbished. Councilman Phillabaum stated that we are preserving history. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that there was money budgeted for Council Chambers renovations when the sewage plant was sold. Councilwoman Stevenson said that the desks need refurbished and the carpeting needs replaced. Council President Ruszkowski said that she does not that former Council President Jack Caruso brought samples of laminate flooring; however, she believes it will be difficult to keep up with the cleaning of it. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she will move forward with the desks. Council President Ruszkowski asked if anyone had any objections to the desks being refurbished. Councilman Phillabaum stated as long as it is in that price range, he is good with it. Councilman Cholock stated that he was good with it also. Everyone agreed to move forward with refurbishing the desks.

#### **Streets / Stormwater Report:**

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- The tub grinder is up and running.
- Councilman Phillabaum stated that on Christmas Eve the street department was called out for snow and there were a few issues with the scheduling. Councilman Phillabaum asked Mayor Bailey in the event that there is a large snowfall and the street department needs to send a guy home or there is a scheduling issue would her husband be willing to plow. Mayor Bailey said that she didn't see why not; however, she did want to ask him and she would get back to Councilman Phillabaum.

#### **Parks & Recreation:**

#### **Public Safety Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to accept the resignation of full-time Police Officer Olivia Harshell effective January 20, 2023. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to give Medic 10 employees a bonus based off of their employment history retroactive to December 15, 2022. The total bonus amount overall not to exceed \$2,850.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Cholock gave the following report:

- Need to consider purchasing an ambulance for Medic 10. They spent over \$8,000.00 in repairs this year and almost the same amount last year. On December 26, 2022 truck 426 was down and on December 17, 2022, truck 424 was down due to a blower motor. The cost between the two was approximately \$450.00. There is one truck that cannot be sent out of the area. Medic 10 has received an estimate for an ambulance costing approximately \$130,000.00, which includes outfitting. A stretcher would cost approximately \$20,000.00. Would need approximately \$150,000.00. Mayor Bailey

and Councilwoman Czekanski asked if it would qualify for covid money. Councilman Cholock stated that he believes that it would. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that it is worth looking into if it is eligible to be purchased with covid money. Councilwoman Czekanski agreed.

Councilman Phillabaum read the following Fire Report for the month of December 2022:

Total Calls – 67  
In Town – 23  
Out of Town - 44  
10-45's - 16  
Entrapments - 3  
Fires - 14  
AFA's - 18  
Hazardous Calls – 8  
Public Service Calls – 0  
Ambulance Assistance – 1  
Standby's – 1  
Turnpike Calls – 4  
Landing Zones – 0  
Drills – 0  
Total Members Answering – 685  
Avg. Member Per Call – 10

Mayor Bailey stated that Myrna Coen would like to look inside the synagogue to see what is there and report back to a group in Pittsburgh. Joe Bauer of the MPVFD said that Borough Manager Landy did meet with a Rabbi from Pittsburgh that she recommended and went through the building. Mr. Bauer stated that there were three (3) old bibles that they wanted and have them restored properly, the light on the sanctuary and the scroll holder; however, it was so big and bulky that they weren't sure how they would get it out; and, the windows. Mr. Bauer also reported that Rick Meason from the Mount Pleasant Historical Society wanted to go through the building also.

#### **Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report and stated that for the year 2023 that they will be working on the following:

- Military banners. They have 10 or 11 at the current time. Councilwoman Barnes believes that more will start to come in once they are up and people see them.
- Getting the ground lights at Veterans Park fixed. It will be expensive.
- Get the railing up at Veterans Park.
- Deal with Spectrio and the agreement that we have with them.
- Meet with the artist that will be painting on the back of Veterans Wall.

Councilman Barrick stated that we could include the electrical work for Veterans Wall to be included with the bid for the gazebo so it can be done all at one time. Council agreed that would be a good thing to do. Councilman Barrick also reported that the box behind the stone will also need to be worked on.

Councilman Phillabaum stated that the digital wall is up and running.

#### **Ordinances:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to adopt Ordinance Number 663 Amending Chapter 24, Taxation, Part 4, Realty Transfer Tax, providing waivers for additional fees due to

unpaid real estate taxes and the effect of failure to receive real estate tax notice. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

**Human Resources: None.**

**Finance / Grants Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to give full-time employees a bonus retroactive to December 19, 2022. The total bonus overall not to exceed \$4500.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution 2023-01 setting the 2023 Quarterly Contribution for Non-Uniform Pension at \$3.75 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution 2023-02 waiving the required Police Pension member contributions for calendar year 2023 only. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to amend the agenda to add an authorized signer to the Borough checking accounts. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to add Borough Secretary Sharon Lesko as a signatory for the Borough checking accounts from current to June 30, 2023. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

**New Business:**

- Councilman Cholock reminded residents that when you dispose of old smoke detectors remove the batteries from them.

**Reading of Communications:**

- Received a thank you card from Borough employees for the bonuses that they received.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

**Public Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:58pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey A. Landy,  
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

### **Motions from Meeting of January 3, 2023**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of December 5, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to accept the November 2022 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

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